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From: Gregory M. Taylor

Docket No. 6300,96.1
Serial No. 09/787,498

Message:

Attached are proposed amendments for the independent claims of the above-referenced case for your consideration.

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PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Serial No. 09/787,498

Docket No. 6300.96.1

1. (currently amended) A microneedle array device, comprising:

a substrate having a substantially planar major surface; and

a plurality of hollow non-silicon microneedles on the major surface of the substrate, each of the microneedles having a microchannel therethrough that provides communication between at least one input port at a proximal end of each of the microneedles and at least one output port at an opposite distal end that extends beyond an edge of the substrate;

wherein the microneedles are located on the major surface of the substrate such that the microneedles extend in a direction substantially parallel to the major surface.

22. (currently amended) A microneedle array device, comprising:

a plurality of hollow non-silicon microneedles having a microchannel therethrough that provides communication between at least one input port at a proximal end of each of the microneedles and at least one output port at an opposite distal end; and

at least one first structural support member that interconnects the microneedles adjacent the proximal end of the microneedles; and

at least one second structural support member that interconnects the microneedles adjacent the distal end of the microneedles.

33. (previously presented) A microneedle device, comprising:

a substrate having a substantially planar surface; and

a **single** hollow non-silicon microneedle on the planar surface of the substrate, the microneedle having at least one microchannel therethrough that provides communication between at least one input port at a proximal end of the microneedle and at least one output port at an opposite distal end that extends beyond an edge of the substrate.

43. (currently amended) A microneedle device, comprising:

a single hollow elongated shaft comprised of a non-silicon material, the shaft defining at least one microchannel therethrough and having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one input port at the proximal end of the shaft and at least one output port at the distal end, the microchannel providing communication between the at least one input port and the at least one output port.

51. (currently amended) A method of fabricating a microneedle, comprising:

providing a substrate with a substantially planar major surface;

depositing a metal material on the major surface to form one or more bottom walls for one or more microneedles;

coating a top surface of the one or more bottom walls with a photoresist layer to a height corresponding to a selected inner height of a microchannel for the one or more microneedles;

depositing a metal material to form side walls and a top wall upon the one or more bottom walls and around the photoresist layer; and

removing the photoresist layer from the microchannel of the one or more microneedles;

wherein the microneedles are formed on the major surface of the substrate such that the microneedles extend in a direction substantially parallel to the major surface.